

1602.170-10

1602.170-10 Letter of credit.

Letter of credit means the method by which certain carriers, and their underwriters if authorized, receive recurring premium payments and contingency reserve payments by drawing against a commitment (certified by a responsible OPM official) which specifies a dollar amount available. For each carrier participating in the letter of credit arrangement for payment under this part, the terms "carrier reserves," and "special reserves" include any balance in the carrier's letter of credit account.

[53 FR 51783, Dec. 23, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 14359, Apr. 20, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1602.170-11 Negotiated benefits contracts.

Negotiated benefits contracts are FEHBP contracts in which benefits provided and subscription income are based on either community rating or experience rating.

[62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1602.170-12 OPM.

OPM means the Office of Personnel Management.

[52 FR 16038, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 53 FR 51783, Dec. 23, 1988 and further redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1602.170-13 Similarly sized subscriber groups.

(a) *Similarly sized subscriber groups* (SSSGs) are a comprehensive medical plan carrier's two employer groups that:

(1) As of the date specified by OPM in the rate instructions, have a subscriber enrollment closest to the FEHBP subscriber enrollment; and,

(2) Use any rating method other than retrospective experience rating; and,

(3) Meet the criteria specified in the rate instructions issued by OPM.

(b) Any group with which an FEHB carrier enters into an agreement to provide health care services is a potential SSSG (including separate lines of business, government entities, groups that have multi-year contracts, and groups having point-of-service products).

(c) Exceptions to the general rule stated in paragraph (b) of this section

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are (and the following groups must be excluded from SSSG consideration):

(1) Groups the carrier rates by the method of retrospective experience rating;

(2) Groups consisting of the carrier's own employees;

(3) Medicaid groups, Medicare groups, and groups that have only a stand alone benefit (such as dental only);

(4) A purchasing alliance whose rate-setting is mandated by the State or local government.

(d) OPM shall determine the FEHBP rate by selecting the lower of the two rates derived by using rating methods consistent with those used to derive the SSSG rates.

[62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1602.170-14 Subcontractor.

Subcontractor means any supplier, distributor, vendor, or firm that furnishes supplies or services to or for a prime contractor or another subcontractor, except for providers of direct medical services or supplies pursuant to the Carrier's health benefits plan.

[52 FR 16038, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 53 FR 51783, Dec. 23, 1988, and further redesignated at 55 FR 27414, July 2, 1990 and 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

PART 1603—IMPROPER BUSINESS PRACTICES AND PERSONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Subpart 1603.70—Misleading, Deceptive, or Unfair Advertising

Sec.

1603.7001 Policy.

1603.7002 Additional guidelines.

1603.7003 Contract clause.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

SOURCE: 52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 1603.70—Misleading, Deceptive, or Unfair Advertising

1603.7001 Policy.

(a) OPM prepares and distributes or makes available to Federal employees and annuitants a comparison booklet which presents summary information and a benefits brochure which details

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benefits, limitations, and premium rates for all participating plans. OPM does not encourage, support, or reimburse participating carriers for the costs of advertisements. However, while OPM believes that advertising is unnecessary, it recognizes that the decision to use advertising rests with each carrier.

(b) OPM discourages advertising that is misleading or deceptive. This includes advertising that is directed at other carriers' plans participating in the Program and which uses incomplete or inappropriate comparisons or disparaging or minimizing techniques. Such unfair practices are prejudicial to the interests of the vast majority of carriers whose advertising is fair and accurate.

(c) Failure to conform to the requirements of this subpart shall be a material breach of the contract and may result in withdrawal of approval to continue participation in the FEHB Program.

[52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1603.7002 Additional guidelines.

Any advertisements which identify a carrier's participation in the FEHBP shall—

(a) Be limited to the merits of the carrier's FEHBP plan and shall be limited to factual statements of the benefits and rates offered by that plan. The official document for benefit and rate comparisons among FEHBP plans is the comparison chart issued by OPM.

(b) Not use the FEHBP logo.

(c) Recognize that the officially approved plan brochure is the sole contractual statement of benefits, limitations, and exclusions. All advertisements that in any way discuss plan benefits shall contain the following statement:

This is a summary (or brief description) of the features of the (plan's name). Before making a final decision, please read the plan's officially approved brochure, (brochure number). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure.

(d) Set forth the rates for the plan, if the advertisements discuss benefits.

(e) Not give instructions on enrollment. Statements on enrollment procedures, requirements, or eligibility shall be limited to those such as:

To sign up, fill out a Health Benefits Registration Form (Standard Form 2809) from your personnel office indicating the enrollment you want:

The enrollment codes for (plan's name) are:

Self Only _____ Enrollment Code _____

Self and Family _____ Enrollment Code _____

The form must then be returned to your personnel office before the (date) deadline. Your (plan's name) coverage will begin the first pay period in January, (year). If you are a retired Federal employee and need forms, contact the Office of Personnel Management at P.O. Box 809, Washington, DC 20044.

[52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

1603.7003 Contract clause.

The clause at 1652.203-70 shall be inserted in all FEHBP contracts.

[52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

PART 1604—ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Subpart 1604.7—Contractor Records Retention

Sec.

1604.703 Policy.

1604.705 Specific retention periods.

Subpart 1604.9—Taxpayer Identification Number

1604.970 Taxpayer Identification Number.

Subpart 1604.70—Coordination of Benefits

1604.7001 Coordination of benefits clause.

Subpart 1604.71—Disputed Health Benefit Claims

1604.7101 Filing health benefit claims/court review of disputed claims.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

SOURCE: 52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.